GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2016
Molecular Biology Organisation Treaty
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has signed the molecular biology organisation agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the objectives thereof, along with the terms and objectives of this organisation;

(c) whether India is likely to benefit after becoming a member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation; and

(d) if so, the details?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(Y.S. CHOWDARY)
??????? ?? ???????????? ??? ?????? ??????? ?????? ??????
(???. ??. ?????)

(a) Yes, Madam. The department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has signed a Memorandum of agreement with European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) on November 9, 2015.

(b) & (c) The objective of the co-operation between India, EMBC and EMBO is aimed at increasing scientific exchange between India and EMBC Member States. EMBO/EMBC being a leadership group will help India with research transnational resources, capacity building, training and leadership & brand building.

The EMBO is an organization that promotes excellence in the molecular life sciences in Europe. EMBO trains and networks thousand of scientists every year. The EMBO membership includes some of the leading researchers in Europe and represents a dynamic cross-section of the life sciences community.

Within EMBO is also European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC). EMBC is an intergovernmental organization comprising 27 Member States, which are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

EMBC promotes a strong transnational approach to improve quality research in life sciences. EMBC supports a wide range of EMBO activities. EMBC was founded in 1969 to support and finance the actions of EMBO and to give Member States more structured access to the expertise to EMBO Members.

In order to tap and avail this rich pool of scientific excellence, India has become a EMBC Associate Member. By being the Associate member State, DBT would provide nominal fees to be member state which will in turn provide access to core capacity and expertise of EMBO with very well laid out activities:

- EMBO fellowships
- EMBO Courses and Workshops
- EMBO Science Policy
- EMBO Global Activities, Meetings and Publications

More concretely, in EMBC India could apply to all of EMBO's programme including:

- Post-doctoral fellowships; within EMBC and Associate EMBC Member States or cooperation states;

- Short-term fellowships; gaining access to high-level co-operation partners and the latest technologies; Courses and workshops; to host scientific events in India;

- Young investigators; gaining access to the network of the best young scientists in Europe and cooperation states;

- Installation grants, attracting scientists to establish research groups in India.

(d) Apart from being able to access all the programmes listed at (b) abd ((c) above; EMBO also helps young scientists to advance

their research, promote their international reputations and ensure their mobility. Courses, workshops, conferences and EMBO Press publications disseminate the latest research and offer training in techniques to maintain high standards of excellence in research practice. EMBO helps to shape science policy by seeking input and feedback from our community and by following closely the trends in science in Europe and the world. With such partnerships, India also opens its doors as a potential host country for foreign postdoctoral researchers.

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